

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Joy Kurland as well as her husband Leon and her daughter Meredith, who is a social worker, on the occasion of this well deserved tribute from the Anti-Defamation League, and wish them health and happiness in the years to come.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS  
RIGHTS

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I submit to the record a story of two young women whose voices we in hear. Last Thursday, "Ms. A" and "Ms. B" traveled from Bangladesh to our nation's Capital to tell their story. The two women are the survivors of the horrendous fire that occurred in the Chowdhury Knitwear factory in Bangladesh on November 25, 2000.

Sadly, their story echoes the events of the 1911 fire that occurred at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City where 146 young garment workers were killed.

The women traveled to the United States to tell their compelling story of the dangerous working conditions under which they are forced to work. Fifty-one of their co-workers were killed in the fire that blazed through the factory. Many of the workers were electrocuted, suffocated, or trampled to death, due to the doors of the factory being locked that evening by the owners to keep union organizers out. Through timid voices they explained that they are forced to work long hours, and had not received a raise in two years. They spoke of their fear for their jobs when they returned home because of their trip to the United States. However, they stated that they traveled to the United States to tell their story in hope of making a difference for the workers in the Chowdhury factory in Bangladesh and workers around the world.

In Bangladesh nearly 80% of garment workers do not earn the legal monthly minimum wage of \$17. The average workday is 12–14 hours, many times for as little as 5 cents an hour. The workers are denied the right to organize and are subjected to deplorable working conditions. "Ms. A" and "Ms. B" sew for first-world clients at the Chowdhury Knitwear Factory. The factory produces towels and bedding products that are shipped to the European Union. However, the owner of the factory owns and operates another factory across the street that makes products that are shipped to the United States.

Unfortunately, there are many factory workers who can tell stories such as "Ms. A" and "Ms. B's". There are factories like the Chowdhury Knitwear factory in Bangladesh all over the world. In the past decade hundreds of workers have been killed in factory fires throughout Asia, in Thailand, and in China. We have a responsibility to impel companies in countries such as Bangladesh to provide their workers with safe conditions and the right to organize, and collectively bargain. America should not allow the import of goods from nations that allow the exploitation of their own workers.

As a member of the International Workers Right Caucus, I strongly urge the United States Congress, and all nations to ratify the

International Labor Organization Standards providing individuals abroad basic worker rights.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to the record the story of these women and their associates because I am their voice, the voice that can be heard by the American public, and by the U.S. government.

It is because of the conditions that exist at the Chowdhury Knitwear factory in Bangladesh that I will continue to fight for labor rights both home and abroad.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO'S MAR-  
KETPLACE WINS PEABODY  
AWARD

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of, and to honor Minnesota Public Radio's highly regarded business and financial news program Marketplace™, for their receipt of a prestigious Peabody Award for 2000. The George Foster Peabody Awards were established in 1940 to recognize distinguished achievement and meritorious service by radio and television networks, stations, producing organizations, cable television organizations and individuals. Marketplace will be honored during a May 21st awards ceremony in New York to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the George Foster Peabody Awards.

Marketplace is public radio's only national program about business, the global economy and finance. It was the first, and is still the only, daily national business show originating from the West Coast. Its location in Los Angeles has provided Marketplace easier access to the Pacific Rim and has encouraged the staff to develop their own voice, one not overwhelmed by the traditionally Eastern-dominated media. With eight domestic bureaus (Boston, Ann Arbor/Detroit, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia, Portland, San Francisco and Washington, DC) and two international bureaus (London and Tokyo), Marketplace is a truly global program using business and economics as its twin lenses to better view and understand the world. It distinguishes itself from general news programming by taking a broader view of business and exploring business and finance issues on a deeper more human, more engaging level.

The program premiered in January 1989 from Long Beach, California. Over the years, it has been described as well informed, hip, irreverent, and the business show for the rest of us. Last year, Minnesota Public Radio, which is based in my home district of Saint Paul, Minnesota, acquired Marketplace from the University of Southern California. This added one more strong program to Minnesota Public Radio's already impressive resume of celebrated shows including A Prairie Home Companion and Saint Paul Sunday. Marketplace's future looks as bright as its past with Minnesota Public Radio building a state-of-the-art digital production center in downtown Los Angeles that will serve as the program's newest home.

Marketplace was created by Jim Russell, an award-winning journalist and a former executive producer of All Things Considered, who

has more than thirty years of broadcasting experience under his belt. In 1988, he envisioned a public radio business program that sounded smart, literate and witty; one that could appeal to an audience of non business types. Today, Marketplace is heard on more than 300 public radio stations across the United States with a national audience of nearly 4 million weekly listeners.

The executive producer of Marketplace is J.J. Yore, who has been a reporter, editor and broadcast producer for nearly twenty years. As executive producer, he is the one responsible for setting the program's overall editorial direction and tone, which the Peabody Awards Committee described as, "sophisticated, creative and accessible."

David Brancaccio has been the show's senior host since 1993. He is a former foreign correspondent and broadcast reporter with a knack for telling a good story. His style has been described as lively and engaging. Before taking his current position with Marketplace, he served as the show's London bureau chief for three years. His international reporting experience and considerable travel overseas add to Marketplace's global perspective on business-related news.

Praise for Marketplace abounds. Early in its history, it was named "best business program" in the U.S. by the prestigious Columbia Journalism Review. More recently, Marketplace received the 1997 Loeb Award in the radio category, the 1997 Clarion Award for "Regular News" and in January 1998, the highly coveted duPont-Columbia Award for "Excellence in Overall Show." In 2000, Marketplace's Japan Bureau won the Overseas Press Club's Best Business Reporting in Broadcast Media Award. According to Washingtonian Magazine, Marketplace is in the top four most-listened-to programs by business leaders. The Station Resource Group reported that, according to industry leaders, Marketplace is one of five "must-have" programs for public radio stations.

Marketplace's most recent honor, the Peabody Award, is one of the most competitive in the fields of broadcasting and cable. For the year 2000, Marketplace was one of only 34 award winners chosen from nearly 1,100 entries. The Peabody Award differs from other broadcast and cable awards because it is given solely on the basis of merit, rather than within designated categories. Judging is done by a fifteen-person national advisory board whose members include TV critics, broadcast and cable industry executives, scholars, and experts in culture and fine arts. Dr. Louise Benjamin, Interim Director of the Peabody Awards, said, "The Peabody Board chose Marketplace because the program offers listeners a refreshing, perceptive account of the day's international economic news. It also gives its audience insight into how the global economy affects their communities and their lives."

I congratulate Marketplace on their notable achievement as a 2000 recipient of the George Foster Peabody Award. The Peabody and Minnesota Public Radio's Marketplace belong together as they both represent the qualities we, here in the U.S. House of Representatives, applaud: excellence, distinguished achievement, and service.